

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 6-8, and 10-12, 14, and 16 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 14 are amended.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wurster (US 5,564,954). Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wurster in view of Wieloch (US 6,031,723). Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wurster in view of Inagaki (US 5,837,155). Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wurster in view of Inagaki as applied to claim 12, and further in view of McMonagle (US 4,533,035). Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims currently pending in this application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for the following reasons, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 includes, among other limitations, "wherein the smallest cross section of the body part is larger than the smallest cross section of the introducing part and the smallest cross section the forward end," and "an elongated aperture having a hexagonal shape extending in the terminal axis is formed at a center of the pressure retaining part, a portion of the introducing part, and a portion of the body part." Wurster does not teach the above limitations.

Rather, as shown in FIG. 2 of Wurster, the beams 24, 26 of the contact provide "a pair of protuberances 40, 42 at the middle portions 30, 32 of the beams, with each protuberance extending towards the other beam. The contact is designed to be installed in the hole by downward force applied in the direction D against ledges 40 on a contact portion 42." (Col. 2, lines 53-57). Therefore, the slot 22, as clearly shown in FIGs. 2, 10 and 12, does not have "a hexagonal shape." Additionally, Wurster does not teach "wherein the smallest cross section of the body part is larger than the smallest cross section of the introducing part and the smallest cross section the forward end," because the body part of the compliant section has a cross section the same as the introducing part, as shown in FIGs. 1, 2, and 13.

As a result, claim 1 is not anticipated by Wurster.

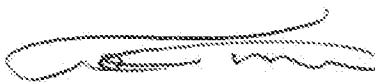
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Amended independent claim 2 includes similar limitation as the above-mentioned limitation of claim 1 and therefore is not anticipated by Wurster either.

Dependent claims 6-8, 10-12, 14, and 16 depend on claims 1 and 2, respectively and thus are thus patentable over the cited references for the reasons set forth above, and for the extra limitation they include therein.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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